A QUAKER'S LETTER TO A Perſecuting Prieſt:

WHEREIN

I. A Way is ſet forth how a Man may commit the Sin againſt the HOLY GHOST, which will not be forgiven in this World, neither in the World to come.

II. How Government may give Power to a Nation to kill the two Witneſſes of GOD, as it is written, REVELATIONS the xith.

III. A Direction how Men may go to HEAVEN in a delightful and happy Way.

IV. A Deſcription of the Happineſs of HEAVEN, and the Torments of HELL, and how Souls are THERE tormented, from the leaſt to the greateſt.

V. How SATAN received his deadly Wound, and how his deadly Wound was healed.

LIKEWISE

All the PLAGUES of EGYPT ſpiritualized.

By RICHARD WATTS.

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A

Quaker's Letter

TO A

Perſecuting Prieſt, &c.

William F——d,

THOU mayſt well underſtand, that thou perſecuteſt me for my tenants tithes, and haſt obtained a Warrant of Diſtreſs for twice as much (beſides the charges) as thou couldſt demand of any other man in the pariſh: thou thyſelf didſt demand of me but twelve ſhillings for theſe tithes, and now I hear that thou ſayeſt, thou wilt take a fine heifer for it, and leave ſheep and other things that might be taken nearer the value: this ſhews thy wolfiſh ſpirit in thy unreaſonable way of deſtroying thy neighbour's goods. I therefore adviſe thee to read this Letter, which may ſerve thee as a mirrour to ſee thyſelf, and all the world that ſpeak or act in favour of perſecution.

The only way that I can underſtand by Scripture to put an end to perſecution, is, plainly to ſet forth the ſin thereof in a clear light, to the con-

ſciences of men, wherein dwelleth the witneſs of God; ſo that they muſt put a ſtop to perſecution, or wilfully commit the unpardonable ſin, which bringeth a curſe and deſtruction upon a nation.

Thus will I begin to reaſon with the perſecuting world: That every rational creature has a talent of grace from heaven, given him to judge of things ſpiritual and temporal, and that talent in man bears witneſs to all the Scriptures of truth that are written; if any man will learn the language of it, the Scriptures of truth ſay, Do unto all men as you would be done by: this holy gift of God ſpeaks the ſame language in the ſouls of you prieſts, and unto all wicked and ungodly men on earth, if they will hear it, and it will tell them, it is the divine law of heaven, and the perfect law of nature.

The Quakers ever ſince they have been a people have been contending for the benefit of this heavenly law upon a religious foundation, and could they once attain it, there would be an end of perſecution; but for ſo doing they have been ſeverely puniſhed by fines and impriſonments.

Now let perſecuting nations be ſtill, and hear the language of this holy gift, which is the Holy Ghoſt in every one of their own ſouls, as well as in the ſouls of the righteous. Do not the judges give judgment againſt the Quakers for contending for the benefit of the before-mentioned heavenly law? and, in ſo doing, do not they give judgment againſt the law alſo? and does not the Holy Spirit ſay within them, that giving judgment againſt the pure law of heaven, is giving judgment againſt God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, which is the Holy Ghoſt in man? This I will be bold to ſay, that the holy gift of God in man will ſay *amen* to all theſe truths; except a man will

will wilfully by wickedneſs harden his heart againſt it, and will not hear the voice of the gift of God in his ſoul.

Wilful perſecution is wilful blaſphemy againſt heaven, and that is the ſin againſt the Holy Ghoſt, that will never be forgiven in this world, nor in the world to come: this ſin the prieſts through covetouſneſs lead the nations into, who are now near to curſing and deſtruction except they repent.

The prieſts in every country are complained of for their wickedneſs; for they are known to be guilty of pride and covetouſneſs, ſome of curſeing and ſwearing, and others of drunkenneſs and whoredom, and of the diverſions of the times; but what out-ballances all theſe iniquities is, their ſin of perſecution: this is the wickedneſs of the prieſts of this age.

It is written in the Scriptures of truth, that the prayers of the wicked are an abomination to the Lord; in them is the greateſt hypocriſy, and in their worſhip is idolatry, which will lead them deep into the bottomleſs pit.

It would be a hundred fold better for wicked prieſts to get their bread in any other way (tho' never ſo mean) untill they had repented of their wickedneſs; for every time they offer their prayers to God for the people, in the height of their wickedneſs, they are committing abomination to the Lord, and every abomination ſinketh their ſouls deeper and deeper into the miſeries of hell, where they will ſuffer according to the number of their abominations, to all eternity; and every man that upholdeth them in theſe abominations (or are in unity with them) is guilty of the ſame.

Perſecution is that ſpiritual war we read of, which is carried on by the powers of darkneſs againſt the Lamb; but the Lamb at the end of perſecution

will gain the victory. The perſecuting prieſts now, and in all ages, have deceived and led many millions of ſouls into it, under the pretence of religion; for all mankind that ſpeak or act in favour of perſecution, are found fighting againſt the Lamb of God; but the greateſt commanding officers in the war under government are thoſe, who by their judgment give power and authority to impriſon the Quakers, and rob them of their ſubſtance, for contending for the benefit of the law of heaven upon a religious foundation. It may be ſaid in truth, that there have been more and greater theſts, robberies and murders, by the law of perſecution, ſince Chriſt, than ever were committed by highway thieves, robbers and murderers, ever ſince the goſpel was preached; and all men may ſay, that thoſe of perſecution are the greateſt, becauſe they are committed upon the church of Chriſt, which is called ſacrilege.

Some men for want of underſtanding in chriſtianity ſay, that the Quakers never bought their tithes; but let ſuch as thoſe put this queſtion to the witneſs of God in their conſcience, and inquire, who did buy them? or how the prieſts came to have them? and they will find an anſwer there, that it is from a law that gives the prieſts power to do to the Quakers as they would not be done by upon a religious foundation: this is perſecution, and wilful perſecution is wilful blaſphemy againſt heaven, which is the ſin againſt the Holy Ghoſt, that will not be forgiven in this world, nor in the world to come. If the people immediately repent of perſecution, then I believe that the judgments of God, that are decreed againſt a willful perſecuting nation, will be prevented; but if they harden their hearts againſt it, then the judgments foretold in Scripture will come upon them;

them; for wilful blaſphemy will aſcend up before the throne of God like a cloud, when the angel may come out of the temple of God crying with a loud voice to him that ſat on the cloud, *Thruſt in thy ſickle and reap, the time is come for thee to reap, for the harveſt of the earth is ripe.* The ſame prophet farther tells us, that *the earth was reaped, and was caſt into the great wine-preſs of the wrath of God, and blood came out of the wine preſs, even to the horſes bridles, for the ſpace of* 200 *miles.*

Having read chap. xi. and xii. of the prophet *Daniel*, it appears to my underſtanding, that, that myſtery is ſealed up until the appointed time ſhall come; which was ſetting forth the troubles that were to come upon the wilful perſecuting nation, and the end thereof, under the name of the king of the North making war and conſuming the nation of the king of the South, there to reign many days.

In *Daniel* xi. 13, 14, 15, 16. We may find theſe Words: *For the king of the North ſhall return, and ſhall ſet forth a multitude greater than the former, and ſhall certainly come, after certain years, with a great army, and great riches. And in thoſe times there ſhall many ſtand up againſt the king of the South; alſo the robbers of thy people ſhall exalt themſelves to eſtabliſh the viſion, but they ſhall fall. So the king of the North ſhall come and caſt up a mount, and take the moſt fenced cities, and the arms of the South ſhall not withſtand, neither his choſen people, neither ſhall there be any ſtrength to withſtand. But he that cometh againſt him ſhall do according to his own will, and none ſhall ſtand before him; and he ſhall ſtand in the glorious land, which by his hand ſhall be conſumed.* And in another place he ſaith, *The land of Egypt ſhall not eſcape* (for ſo in Scripture are all perſecuting nations called.)

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Theſe ſayings bring to my remembrance what an officer in the king's army told me a few weeks paſt, that he was in the battle of Colloden againſt the rebels, and that after the battle was over, there were found in the pocket books of many of the rebel officers, orders to kill and deſtroy men, women and children, for ſix weeks; which troubles in bloodſhed may be likened to the prophecy of *John the Divine*, and the prophecy of *Daniel*, which ſay, There ſhall be a time of troubles, ſuch as never were ſince there was a nation, and at that time thy people ſhall be delivered, every one that ſhall be found written in the book; that is, thoſe that are righteous, who will be found written in the book of life.

If a pretender ſhould be raiſed as an inſtrument, by the decrees of heaven, to be a ſcourge to a nation, for their wilfully perſecuting the Quakers, for their contending for the benefit of the l w of heaven, that is the man whom the prophet Daniel calls *the king of the North*, whom there is no power in man to withſtand, at his ſecond coming, becauſe the decrees of God are with him.

But let no man glory in this, for he like other perſecuting kings ſhall do according to his will, and he ſhall exalt himſelf, and magnify himſelf above every god, and ſhall ſpeak marvelous things againſt the God of gods, and ſhall proſper until the indignation be accompliſhed; for that which is determined ſhall be done. Neither ſhall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the deſire of women, nor regard any God, for he ſhall magnify himſelf above all. Daniel xi. 36, 37. This principle in him is the ſpirit and principle of a perſecuting king; ſo the nation will have nothing but ſore troubles till the indignation be accompliſhed, and then, according to the prophecy, he ſhall come to his end, and none ſhall help him.

When theſe prophecies of Daniel, and that of John the Divine, are fulfilled, then will the end of perſecution be. *Rev.* xi. 3. I will give power to my two witneſſes, and they ſhall propheſy a thouſand two hundred and ſixty days, cloathed in ſackcloth.

Theſe days anſwer, by the calculation of ſome, for the church of Chriſt to ſuffer perſecution for one thouſand two hundred and ſixty years, under the power of the Gentiles, which race we are of. (If any hiſtorian will count the time of the firſt perſecution of the Romiſh church, it will anſwer to about this time.) *Rev.* xi. 7. And when they ſhall have finiſhed their teſtimony, the beaſt that aſcendeth out of the bottomleſs pit ſhall make war againſt them, and overcome them, and kill them. This killing of the witneſſes of God, muſt be underſtood to be, the killing of the witneſſes of God in man, by the power of ſatan, in or by perſecution.

Theſe two witneſſes of God, according to my underſtanding, are the ſpirit and life of chriſtianity and humanity, which came down from heaven, and made man a rational being; and when a nation, under the deluſion of ſatan, will wilfully puniſh men for contending for the benefit of the law of heaven, upon a religious foundation, then have they wilfully killed theſe two witneſſes of God in themſelves.

Verſe 8. And their dead bodies ſhall lie in the ſtreet of the great city, which ſpiritually is called Sodom and Egypt; where alſo our Lord was crucified. By this verſe we may underſtand, that there is no life of the ſpirit of chriſtianity in a perſecuting nation, where theſe witneſſes are caſt out into the ſtreet of an empty profeſſion, or into a common highway of a dead formality of wor-

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ſhiping God, without any life of the ſpirit of religion in it or them. And this great city, which is ſpiritually called Sodom and Egypt, where alſo our Lord was crucified, is a compariſon of a wilful perſecuting nation, to be like Sodom and Egypt for their wickedneſs and cruelty; for what can be more wicked, than for a perſecuting nation to profeſs Chriſt to be their Saviour and Law-giver, and at the ſame time to puniſh men for contending for the benefit of his law (this may be called by all men the greateſt hypocriſy) or what can be called more cruel and hard-hearted, than to uphold a law that will lead and compell all mankind to eternal deſtruction, as the law of perſecution does? This is crucifying the Lord of Glory afreſh, and putting him to open ſhame.

Verſe 9. And they of the people, and kindreds, and tongues, and nations, ſhall ſee their dead bodies three days and a half, and ſhall not ſuffer their dead bodies to be put into graves. There are no inhabitants in the world but may ſpiritually ſee the witneſſes of God to be killed, and lie open to their view, in a wilful perſecuting nation. Theſe three days and a half by calculation are three years and a half before the judgment of God may come upon a wilful perſecuting nation, after they have an underſtanding of perſecution.

Verſe 11. And, after three days and a half, the Spirit of Life from God entered into them, and they ſtood upon their feet, and great fear fell upon them that ſaw them. At this time the wilful perſecuting nation will ſee what they have been doing, and will be afraid of the judgments of God.

Verſe 12. And they heard a great voice from heaven, ſaying unto them, Come up hither; and they aſcended up to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies beheld them. Here the witneſſes of God

that

that were killed by a wilful perſecuting nation, will aſcend up to heaven, in and with a cloud of the abominations of the perſecutors, and will lay them before the throne of God, and then the eyes of the perſecutors will be opened to ſee the multitude of their ſins committed by perſecution.

Verſe 13. And the ſame hour was a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were ſlain of men ſeven thouſand, and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven. This earthquake denotes the troubles and bloodſhed that will come upon a wilful perſecuting nation; and the remnant that is left, that were affrighted, will give glory to the God of heaven: then perſecution will have an end.

It is good for all men to know their ſecret enemies; the greateſt enemy that a man can have on earth, is a perſecutor for a teacher; for a perſecuting prieſt, by the power of the dark ſpirit of deluſion, leads and compells all mankind to eternal deſtruction, and thoſe that will not go to hell in his way, he has obtained a power from government to ſeverely puniſh by fines and impriſonments.

A perſecuting prieſt has the face of a man, and the ſpirit of a dragon; and hath power given him to ſow the ſeed of perſecution in the hearts of the people, which immediately ſprings forth out of their blaſphemy againſt God, and Chriſt his Son; for every man that ſpeaketh in favour of perſecution, ſpeaketh blaſphemy, and may not all men ſpiritually ſee the flames of blaſphemy againſt heaven, all over the land?

There are three ways to quench thoſe flames of blaſphemy: Firſt, as I have been informed, the law againſt blaſphemy is to puniſh the offen-

ders by burning their tongues through with a red hot iron ; therefore, was this law put in execution, it would be a ſore puniſhment to the perſecuting prieſts, and all thoſe that ſide with them in perſecution, either in word or deed: this would put out the flames of blaſphemy in the nation ; but the perſecuting prieſts may ſay, that we are certain that this law will not be put in execution, leſt the judges of the land ſhould then come under the ſame puniſhment ; but let them conſider, how much better it would be to undergo this puniſhment on earth, than to endure the judgment of God to all eternity.

Secondly, would a government and nation deſire the peace of God to overflow a land, let them firſt put an end to perſecution, which breaks their peace with heaven, and then tolerated blaſphemy will be at an end.

Thirdly, If a nation will harden their hearts, and ſay in word or act, that perſecution ſhall be continued, then are their ſins full ripe, and will be cut down by the power of God ; as it is propheſied by the prophet Daniel, and John the Divine.

I think I ſee this nation near to the brink of the ſea of troubles ; but I wiſh for and pray, that all governments may ſee the ſin of perſecution, as it really is, and repent of it, as the men of Nineveh did at the preaching of Jonah ; for behold the prophecies of the Scriptures here, are greater than Jonah's.

But ſometimes I fear they will harden their hearts as Pharaoh and his hoſt did, when they perſued the children of Iſrael through the Red-Sea, where they were overtaken by the power of God, and deſtroyed, to the great deliverance of the children of Iſrael.

We may underſtand by Scripture, that when

a nation's ſins are full ripe, it will be cut down by wars and bloodſhed to the overturning of government; and we may reflect on our own caſe in the laſt wars, had not the Majeſty of heaven raiſed up an inſtrument in the duke of Cumberland to prevent it.

My deſire is, that this nation may repent of perſecution, before they enter into another war, leſt it ſhould provoke God to ſend forth another ſpirit of rebellion, to fulfill the prophecy of Daniel; then will the deſtruction of the nation come.

The reaſon of my fearing this prophecy will firſt come to paſs upon this land, is, becauſe we have the firſt warnings of it.

Let us once more take a view of the perſecuteing prieſt, who is the ſeed from whence deſtruction proceeds, preſent, paſt, and to come: the perſecuting prieſt, by his unnatural ſpirit, covets and deſires the tenths of the fruits of the Quakers labour, and the tenths of the produce of his eſtate, for preaching to a different ſociety; but his unreaſonable deſires cannot be reaſonably confirmed by a law; becauſe to make an unreaſonable law, upon a religious foundation, would be acting beneath the fouls of the air, the fiſhes of the ſea, and the beaſts of the field; for all theſe act by the nature God created them in.

By this unnatural law was ſhed the blood of prophets, and of ſaints, and of all that were ſlain upon the earth; and likewiſe all that have been puniſhed, for contending for the benefits of the teſtimony of the Holy Jeſus. And for the ſin of this unnatural law, God hath ſent an unnatural judgment upon all nations of the earth, as we may find written in *Rev.* xvi. 6. For they have ſhed the blood of ſaints and of prophets, and thou haſt given them blood to drink, for they are worthy.

By this text we may underſtand, that for the unnatural ſin of perſecution, God hath given to the nations of the world an unnatural ſpirit for a judgment, to thirſt after each others blood, and deſtroy one another.

By this unnatural war have many millions of ſouls been cut off, many kings have been dethroned, and the governments have been made ſubject to their enemies; nations have been involved hundreds of millions in debt, more than they were able to pay; this unnatural war brings heavy taxes upon the rich, and great oppreſſion on the poor; but when unnatural perſecution is at an end, then unnatural wars ceaſe; the perſecuteing nations will be able to pay their debts, and make their ſubjects happy.

When theſe truths are made publick to the world, then the perſecuting world will be divided into three parts: one part will hear it with the hearing of the ear, but will not ſuffer themſelves to hear it from the language of the ſoul, and ſo declare judgment againſt the truth, and condemn it. Another part will hear it with the hearing of the ear, and will ſuffer themſelves to hear the truth of it from the language of the ſoul, and confeſs to the truth of the ſame, and after that will give judgment againſt it, and condemn it; theſe are as the wandering ſtars that are reſerved for their blackneſs for ever. The other part is called in Scripture, a remnant that will hear it with the hearing of the ear, and joyfully receive it from the language of the ſoul, and bring forth fruits of repentance to the honour and glory of God.

This language of the ſoul is the divine gift of the grace of God in every rational creature, and as many as will be ſubject to its teaching and leading, it will infallibly guide them to eternal reſt.

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Of all the teachers under heaven the Quakers are the greateſt directors to this heavenly guide, and all the teachers on earth that oppoſe it, are the perſecuting teachers, who lead their hearers into an empty form of godlineſs; in the room thereof, if they were to direct their hearers to this heavenly guide, as the only way to eternal life, it would be a means for men to forſake them and their empty form of religion, and join themſelves to this infallible teacher, which may be had without money, and without price.

I will diſcover to the world what I ſpiritually ſaw, which may be called a viſion: As I one night was in a ſpiritual frame of mind, and my face ſet heaven-ward, I was carried away in the ſpirit into a very large field, with my back towards the Eaſt, and my face to the Weſt; I turn'd my face towards my left hand, and I ſaw this field aſcending up into a very clear light, which appeared to me very pleaſant; then I turned my face to my right hand, where I ſaw at a diſtance a very black cloud, as dark as midnight, without the light of moon or ſtars, and this cloud appeared to be lighter and lighter, as it came nearer to me; then I asked my guide, what this ſignified? who told me, it was the reſemblance of heaven and hell; that light on my left hand, that appeared to be lighter and lighter, is a reſemblance of the ſtate of the ſouls in heaven; for the leaſt ſoul there has a light of that heavenly place, filled with peace and happineſs, and with love and praiſes to God to all eternity; and as there are many degrees before they come to the higheſt degree of happineſs, ſo there are greater degrees of peace and joy, and greater love and thankfulneſs to the Majeſty on high for ever and ever; and thoſe that turn moſt to righteouſneſs, and have ſuffered moſt for the teſti-

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mony of the Holy Jeſus, will receive the greateſt joys.

I deſired in my ſoul to underſtand the meaning of the cloud on my right hand, and my guide told me, that the blacker part of the cloud reſembled the greateſt torments in hell, and the lighter part, the leſſer torments there.

My deſire was to know who were worthy of theſe greater torments, and what were their abominations? The anſwer was: the beaſt and the falſe prophets, as it is written in the Revelations. The firſt and greateſt of ſinners againſt heaven are the fallen angels, under the ſimilitude of the beaſt, and their number is innumerable. The next greateſt offenders to them are the falſe teachers on earth, under the ſimilitude of the falſe prophets; theſe are they who preach for filthy lucre, leading men into an empty form of godlineſs, denying the immediate ſpiritual worſhiping of God, and leading the nations of the earth into perſecution, which is blaſphemy againſt heaven; theſe in Scripture are called the image of the beaſt, and their number is as the ſtars in the firmament, which cannot be numbered.

The next that are joined to them in the black cloud, are the perſecuting kings and emperors of the earth, with all their councils and governments under them, with the judges of their nations; all theſe have given their power to the beaſt to make war againſt the Lamb; the number of theſe in compariſon are as the ſand of the ſea ſhore.

Thoſe that reſemble the lighter part, are the curſers and ſwearers, drunkards and whoremongers, thieves and robbers, and all thoſe that die in ſin without repentance.

And while I was thus ſtanding, I ſaw the cloud vaniſh away in the twinkling of an eye; then I ſaw afar

afar off many millions of ſouls that covered the earth, as the graſs covers the fields, and they were in the ſtature of men, arrayed all in black, with their backs to the North, and their faces to the South, ſtanding in their ranks as an army going to battle, and thoſe ſouls appeared to me ſo cloſely fixed together in the body, and were ſo bound by the power of heaven, that they could move neither hand nor foot out of their reſpective ranks; ſo all the members of hell appeared to be but one ſpiritual body, every member's head appearing above his ſhoulders: and it was told me, this body was to abide in this poſition to all eternity.

Then I was deſirous to know the puniſhment of this body in hell, and it was told me, that the Almighty had withdrawn all peace and comfort of mind from every ſoul that was in that place, and the puniſhment to the leaſt ſinners there, was to be for ever unhappy in their minds; all their ſins not repented of before death, for ever and ever reflecting againſt them, having an equal weight of deſpair, according to the burden of their ſins; for the more the ſins, the more the affliction, and then the greater weight of deſpair will be upon them, and every ſoul in torment, at one and the ſame time, are breathing out, that they are juſtly tormented by the righteouſneſs of God, which muſt be endured to all eternity.

The Divine Being in his great juſtice places every member in that body according to the greatneſs of their ſins, and by his juſt and righteous judgment fixes everlaſting torment upon every ſoul according to their offences; for thoſe in all ages of the world, that lived fartheſt from God, and did demonſtrate it by their perſecuting the ſaints and martyrs, and thoſe that contend for the benefit of the law of heaven, upon a religious foundation,

foundation, are juſtly placed in torment, the very next to the prince of darkneſs, and the fallen angels, which is the head of all iniquity; and thoſe that are placed next to them, may be called the arms and the heart of that great ſinful body: thoſe muſt have the greateſt feeling ſenſe of the torments of hell, who are the authors and actors of all kind of perſecution.

Theſe are the perſecuting prieſts in all ages, with the perſecuting kings and emperors, and governments of the earth, and the perſecuting judges, and all that ever ſided with them in perſecution without repentance; theſe are they that moſt oppoſed the laws of heaven in all ages that ever lived on earth, and ſo are juſtly placed (by the divine power of the Great Being) neareſt to the fallen angels. And if I may ſpeak my mind, I believe thoſe perſecuting kings and governors, that are now in hell torments for perſecution, were they once more permitted to govern on earth as they did heretofore, and was each member of them to give a world for their freedom, they would no more make a law for perſecution, thro' fear of coming a ſecond time into that place of torment.

And I believe that the perſecuting prieſts and judges, and all thoſe that acted with them in a perſecuting law, that are now in the ſame torments, would be of the ſame mind with the tormented kings and governors.

Hell for its order and government may be ſaid to be the moſt regular place whatever; for it is ſo appointed by the power of the Almighty, that there is not one member out of place, and every member receiveth a juſt reward of puniſhment, according to his ſin committed on earth; for this great ſpiritual body of hell has no longer power

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to commit ſin, and to provoke the majeſty of heaven; neither has any member power to act unjuſtly one to another.

Hell may certainly be called the moſt hateful place under the ſun, for its miſery and torment; but could men but take a view of the good order and government of hell, and then caſt their eye upon the order and government of a perſecuting nation, they would then ſee the government divided, one part againſt the other; their teachers and judges turning their backs upon heaven, and perſecuting Chriſt in his followers; their lawyers and counſellors acting in oppoſition one againſt another in every law-ſuit, and the whole nation divided: thus in confuſion is a perſecuting nation divided, being more fallen out of good order, than any part of the creation beſides.

If man would but behold the fowls of the air, they will find every kind flock together, in unity with each other; and ſo in like manner do the fiſhes of the ſea, and the beaſts of the field, without dividing themſelves one againſt another to the deſtroying of their kind.

Would the perſecuting world but take a view of the people called Quakers, and of all the perſecuted people of God in all ages, how they flock together in unity like ſo many ſheep and lambs, always ſpiritually labouring for the good of the ſouls of mankind, without money or price; ſurely they would not ſend forth their ſpiritual wolves to deſtroy and ſcatter God's ſheep and lambs, in oppoſition to the law of heaven.

Some men may ask, which way can all theſe things be prevented? to which I anſwer, if a ſtop was put to perſecution, it would prove the perſecuting prieſts, whether they were the true ſhepherds or the hirelings; if true ſhepherds, then they will

have more regard to the law of Chriſt and his flock, than they will have for a temporal reward.

And when perſecution is at an end, the eyes of the world will be opened, and many thouſands that are now blind, and running in full career to eternal deſtruction, will then ſee themſelves, and turn their face heaven-ward, and be ſaved.

This is the only way to bring a perſecuting nation to good order, and a Chriſtian government, as it becomes Chriſtians. And tho' I may have repeated ſome things ſeveral times nearly to the ſame purpoſe, it was becauſe I knew the perſecuting world to be dull of hearing and underſtanding thoſe things that belong to their eternal peace.

Some men may ſay, that this Letter is too ſharp for men to receive; but let thoſe that think ſo take every paragraph one by one, and lay it before the witneſs of God in their conſciences (for the wicked and ungodly have a talent of grace given them to profit withal, as well as the righteous) and liſten and hear whether the Holy Ghoſt in their ſouls does not ſay *amen* to the truth of what is contained in this Letter, and that it is reaſonable for every rational creature to believe the ſame. Tho' I believe, that if the Majeſty of heaven himſelf was the author of it, ſome men would, by the ſpirit of ſatan in them, make it their ridicule.

We may underſtand by the Revelations of John, that the ſin of perſecution was to be cut down by two ſharp ſickles, the one in mercy, the other in judgment, by a deep bloodſhed. This Letter is a ſharp reprover of a perſecuting nation; and if it ſhall be received in mercy, then perſecution muſt be repented of; otherwiſe, I am afraid, the ſecond ſickle will come, which will be the judgments of God, in an unheard-of bloodſhed, which will come upon men without mercy.

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In pride and diſobedience the angels in a high degree acted againſt their Creator, and for that ſin were caſt down out of heaven, and bound with chains of miſery for ever and ever.

And in the ſpirit of envying mens happineſs, in having a Saviour to be an atonement for their ſins, ſatan made it his buſineſs to deceive them, by leading them into a ſpiritual worſhip contrary to the will of God, by which deluſion he led nations to ſet up idols to worſhip God by, and thereby led the early ages of the world into a continual ſin againſt heaven.

But when the Son of God came on earth, he inſtituted the ſpiritual worſhip, ſaying, The hour is come, and now is, that whoſoever worſhips God, muſt worſhip him in ſpirit and in truth; for God is a ſpirit, and ſeeketh ſuch to worſhip him; it is that ſpiritual worſhip which gave ſatan (the ſpiritual beaſt) his deadly wound; and ſatan to heal this deadly wound (that ſpiritual worſhip gave him) introduced himſelf into the Romiſh church (when they were declining from the true ſpiritual worſhip) and prevailed upon them, to make themſelves a form of the true ſpiritual worſhip, and to ſet it up as an image for all men to worſhip God by; and by this deluſion of ſatan his deadly wound was healed, and then cauſed a law to be made, that whoſoever would not worſhip God, thro' this image, ſhould be put to death; and, by that law, many thouſands of God's people were ſlain.

And, by this perſecuting law, ſatan hath formed many millions of prieſts and others into his own image and likeneſs, in acting and fighting againſt heaven; but every Chriſtian ſoul is bound in his duty to God, in all ages of the world, not to bow down to the beaſt, nor his image, but always to oppoſe them.

Every rational creature may behold the great difference between the true ſpiritual worſhip, and that of empty forms; the one is performed by the ſpirit of Chriſt in man, without the aſſiſtance of human education; and the other is performed by the art of human learning; and can be exerciſed at any time, without the aſſiſtance of the Holy Spirit; the former is the only way to guide ſouls to heaven, the latter is a direct way to lead hypocrites to hell.

When there is an end to perſecution, and when the worſhiping of God by form is out of faſhion, then, and not 'till then, will ſatan's deadly wound be made again.

It is reaſonable to believe, that when the perſecuted Chriſtians manifeſt the ſin of perſecution to the world, and the judgments of God againſt perſecutors, a Chriſtian government will releaſe them from it, and 'till then it is unreaſonable for men to expect it.

What has been already ſaid, is all that the people of God can do for themſelves, and muſt leave it to the Almighty, to avenge their cauſe upon the perſecuting world in mercy and judgment, as the Divine Being ſhall ſee meet.

All Chriſtians may underſtand that the true ſpiritual worſhip that came by Jeſus Chriſt, gave to ſatan his deadly wound, and, by perſecution, which came from government, his deadly wound was healed.

Now every government that puts an end to perſecution, gives ſatan, the ſecond time, his deadly wound. And they who will not do their utmoſt to wound this ſpiritual beaſt, manifeſt themſelves to the world, that they love ſatan more than Chriſt, by acting in ſatan's favour, and living in his love, as tho' they feared to offend him.

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Now the perſecuting nations of the world may make it their choice, either to have the judgments of God come upon them, or let the perſecuted people of God go free.

Two queries I would have laid down before all Chriſtian nations on earth: Firſt, whether ſpiritual worſhip (which Chriſt inſtituted) is not the only way to worſhip God by, which was preached by the primitive Chriſtians, and left upon record for our inſtruction, and now preached by the people called Quakers; and is it not now the duty of man to worſhip God in ſpirit and truth, as much as in the primitive times?

All men may underſtand that there are many nations in the Chriſtian world, where there are many different forms to worſhip God by, and every form is drawn as near the image of the true worſhip of God, as men in their capacity are capable; and when it is formed the government conſtitute it, and ſet it up for all men to worſhip God by, but have no power to give this image life nor ſpirit.

Secondly, whether worſhiping God by this dead image is ſo great, good and acceptable to heaven, as the worſhiping of God by that ſpiritual worſhip that he himſelf hath ordained? I believe that all thinking Chriſtians will deny it; and if any man ſhould venture to ſay, that this image that man hath made, is equal to that ſpiritual worſhip which God hath ordained, it would be blaſphemy.

It would be a great ſin againſt heaven for thoſe that believe in the true ſpiritual worſhip, to uphold the worſhiping of God by an image; and it is a ſin for every man, from the leaſt to the greateſt, in any Chriſtian nation, to uphold or worſhip God by an image, or likeneſs, that is in heaven above,

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or in the earth beneath; but it is a greater ſin for the prieſt to lead mankind to worſhip God by an image of his own making, and the greateſt ſin a nation can commit, would be to puniſh the ſpiritual worſhipers of God, becauſe they refuſe to uphold the worſhiping of God by an image; the worſhiping of God by this likeneſs or image (in this goſpel day) is the antitype of all the worſhiping of images before the coming of our Saviour, which ever was, and now is, an abomination in the ſight of God.

When the eyes of a government are ſo opened, as to diſcern prieſts to be the deceivers of the world, in leading them in a way to worſhip God by an image of the true ſpiritual worſhip, which God hath ordained, and which Chriſt hath inſtituted on earth: when a government ſees theſe things as they are, and after that upholds image worſhiping, and ſay all mankind ſhall do the ſame, then this act of theirs is a witneſs againſt themſelves, that they are not a true Chriſtian government, but on the contrary, a wilful enemy againſt all true Chriſtianity.

It may be ſurpriſing to many, to hear the prieſts charged with leading their hearers to worſhip God by images in this goſpel diſpenſation; but when the true ſpiritual worſhip is ſtated rightly on the one hand, and the inventions of formal worſhip of men is truly ſtated on the other hand, then may every rational creature ſee how the prieſt leads the world to worſhip the Divine Being, by the likeneſs or image of the true ſpiritual worſhip, in all their offices in religion.

Firſt of Chriſt's ſpiritual baptiſm, which cleanſeth the ſoul from iniquity, and brings death upon ſin, and a new birth unto righteouſneſs, which is only done by the power of God in every penitent ſoul.

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In likeneſs to this ſpiritual baptiſm, the prieſt taketh up young children into his arms, and ſprinkleth a little water on their faces, ſigning them with the ſign of the croſs in their foreheads, and afterwards ſaying, *In as much as this child is regenerated and born again, &c.* theſe words, in truth, no reaſonable man can believe, becauſe there can be no alteration in the ſtate of the child; therefore this is but a week image of ſpiritual baptiſm.

In the next place is the communion of the ſoul with Chriſt, by eating and drinking ſpiritual bread and wine, which comes down from heaven, which are ſpiritual favours, and food given to the ſouls, whereby the ſoul of man is ſtrengthened to ſerve God, and to praiſe him for all his mercies; and as many ſouls as live by this heavenly bread and wine ſhall never die, becauſe when theſe ſouls depart the body, they enter into life eternal.

In likeneſs to this holy communion, which alone comes down from heaven, the prieſt giveth temporal bread and wine for the ſoul's food (which is only a nouriſhment to the body) and calleth it *the body and blood of Chriſt*, which is the deceiving of ſouls.

It is written in Scripture, That no man can pray as he ought, except the ſpirit giveth utterance. By this ſpirit all the true worſhipers of God pray and preach, and praiſe God for all his goodneſs, and, without this immediate ſpirit, no man can worſhip God acceptably.

The ungodly teachers, to make an image of this ſpiritual worſhip, make for themſelves forms of godlineſs, by which they pray and preach, and ſing praiſes to God, in their own way and will, and in their own time.

But if any ſhould ſay, that this worſhip invented by men, is equal to or greater than the ſpiritual wor-

worſhip of God, it would be blaſphemy againſt heaven.

Thus every reaſonable man may ſee that perſecution, and man's invention of image worſhiping, are both ſins of blaſphemy againſt heaven, of which ſins the prince of darkneſs is the ſpiritual head, and the prieſts are the actors of them upon the ſtage of this world.

Now as I have before hinted, the Romiſh church was the firſt inventors of the forms of worſhip in the goſpel diſpenſation, and ſoon after this falſe worſhip began, perſecution followed, and for theſe two great ſcenes of wickedneſs, the church of Rome was called myſtery, Babylon, the great whore, the mother of harlots, and the abominations of the earth; and every nation under heaven, that is found guilty of theſe crimes, are worthy of the ſame names; and another name is given, as is already mentioned, which is, ſpiritual Sodom and Egypt, ſo called, where alſo our Lord was crucified. Egypt of old was a type of ſpiritual Egypt in all things, and in all its plagues, and that cruel and hard-hearted king Pharaoh was a type of ſpiritual Pharaoh, the prince of darkneſs, and his ſervants and task-maſters were a type of perſecuting prieſts, that lay unreaſonable things to burden the conſciences of the people of God, now and in all ages.

Moſes was a type of ſpiritual Moſes, which is a Saviour of mankind, which is to lead forth his oppreſſed people by his mighty power out of ſpiritual bondage, and out of ſpiritual Egypt, with his rod in his hand of truth, righteouſneſs and judgment, whereby he will overcome the perſecuting world.

The firſt two plagues that were ſpread all over the land of Egypt, were flies and lice: theſe vermine

vermine were found preying upon the bodies of mankind night and day. The flies were a type of thieves and robbers in ſpiritual Egypt, that prey upon the fruits of other mens labours, in oppoſition to law.

The lice were a type of the law of oppreſſion, that giveth men power to make their prey upon the fruits of other mens labour without reaſon: ſuch is the law of tythes to all mankind, throughout the land of ſpiritual Egypt; becauſe no man hath any thing in the lieu of it, but a ſpiritual cheat and deluſion to their ſouls happineſs.

The plague of the frogs that over-ſpread the land of Egypt, was a type of the three unclean ſpirits like frogs, which we read of in the Revelations, that came out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beaſt, and out of the mouth of the falſe prophets. Theſe are the evil ſpirits that proceed from the prince of darkneſs, and the evil ſpirits that proceed from perſecution, and the evil ſpirits that proceed from the falſe teachers; theſe are the unclean ſpirits like frogs, that have ſpread themſelves over the land of ſpiritual Egypt.

The waters of Egypt that were turned into blood, were a type of wars, and that the nations of ſpiritual Egypt ſhould drink and thirſt after each others blood, to the great hurt and ruin of nations.

The plague of the great hail that deſtroyed both man and beaſt, and every thing that was green in the land of Egypt, was a type of the law of perſecution, which deſtroyeth the good principle of Chriſtianity and morality, for there is nothing which is living or green in Chriſtianity or morality to be found in the law of perſecution.

The plague of the locuſts in Egypt, that eat up every thing that was green, that the hail had left, was a type of the ſpiritual locuſts that came out of

the bottomleſs pit. Theſe locuſts are the falſe teachers that are ſpread all over the land of ſpiritual Egypt, and have deſtroyed all that is green and living in ſpiritual worſhip.

The plague of darkneſs that covered the land of Egypt, was a type of ſpiritual darkneſs, in the land of ſpiritual Egypt, who, knowing not her duty to God or man, makes a law of perſecution, which is againſt the law of heaven, and the law of nature.

The laſt and greateſt plague, which humbled the Egyptians, was the death of the firſt born in every houſe throughout the land, which cauſed them to cry out and ſay, *Let the people go, or we are all dead men.*

The firſt born that were ſlain, were a type of the fallen ſtate of man in ſpiritual Egypt, from whence ariſe all kinds of perſecutions; and death in every houſe in the land of Egypt, was a type of the eternal death of the ſoul in every body throughout ſpiritual Egypt, for the ſin of wilful perſecution, which is wilful blaſphemy againſt heaven: all theſe plagues may be ſeen fulfilled in ſpiritual Egypt.

But we read, that not one of theſe plagues was found upon the children of Iſrael, which was a type that not one of theſe ſpiritual plagues will be found upon the true ſpiritual worſhipers of God, ſo long as the goſpel of Chriſt ſhall be preached.

When the Egyptians ſaw the dearth of the firſt born, they thruſt the children of Iſrael out of the land.

This type every wiſe nation will fulfill; becauſe every reaſonable creature knows, that wilful fighting againſt heaven, by wilful perſecution, will bring eternal death upon every ſuch fighting ſoul throughout the land of ſpiritual Egypt.

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But after the Egyptians let Iſrael go, they again hardened their hearts, and perſued them, and for that ſin they received their overthrow in the Red-Sea, where the king's chariot wheels were taken off, ſo that they went heavily on, till the children of Iſrael were landed ſafe on the other ſide, when the waters on the right hand and on the left ſoon deſtroyed cruel Pharaoh and all his hoſt.

This type ſets forth, that after ſpiritual Egypt had ceaſed from perſecution, they would harden their hearts, and raiſe up perſecution again; then for that blaſphemous ſin, according to the prophecy of the Scriptures, will ſpiritual Moſes divide the nations; as the Red-Sea was divided, one part to the right hand for their king, and the other part on the left hand for their king, from whence a bloody war will enſue, ſuch as was never known in any nation; then will ſpiritual Pharaoh's chariot wheels be taken off, for in the time of this war there will be no power to carry on perſecution, and at that time ſpiritual Iſrael muſt go ſtraight forwards, not favouring in the leaſt either one ſide or the other, but beholding the wonderful works of God for their deliverance; and when the Almighty hath avenged the cauſe of the righteous upon perſecuting nations, and hath humbled them to fear him, then will the power of the earth join itſelf together, and deſtroy the power of ſpiritual Pharaoh, and all his unreaſonable task-maſters in perſecution; then will the inhabitants of the earth, both Jew and Gentile, be favoured by the leading of ſpiritual Moſes through the wilderneſs, and pilgrimage of this life, unto heavenly Canaan, which is into eternal bliſs and happineſs. At the end of perſecution all nations of the earth may ſing the ſong of Moſes, the ſervant of God, and the ſong of the Lamb, ſaying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty,

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juſt and true are all thy ways, thou King of Saints, who ſhall not fear thee, and glorify thy name! for all nations ſhall come and worſhip before thee, for thy judgments are made manifeſt.

Didmarton, Feb 4, 1754. *Richard Watts.*

P. S. Perſecution may as well be underſtood under theſe five heads, as in ſo many volumes: *Firſt*, The law giveth power to the prieſt, to demand the tenths of the fruits of the Quakers labour, and the tenths of the produce of his lands, which is a power given to the prieſt, to do to the Quaker, as he himſelf would not be done by in the like circumſtance. *Secondly*, To do as you would not be done by, is not the will and conſtitution of heaven for men to do *Thirdly*, To do as you would not be done by, cannot be the conſtitution of any Chriſtian or godly ſociety under heaven. *Fourthly*, To do as you would not be done by, upon a religious foundation, is the will of ſatan, and the conſtitution of hell in oppoſition to heaven. *Fifthly*, Every ſociety under heaven that will wilfully chuſe this helliſh conſtitution of ſatan, wilfully worſhips the powers of hell, which is a certain way to deſtruction.

Some men may ſay, that the Quakers never bought their tithes; but let another anſwer, ſaying, who then bought them? or how came the prieſt to have them? then will the lying ſpirit in the former be ſilent, and ſuffer truth to ſpeak, and ſay, that it is by a law that gives power to the prieſt, to do to the Quakers as they themſelves would not be done by in the like circumſtance, which is in oppoſition to the law of heaven, and the law of nature, upon a religious foundation.

When I ask the wiſeſt of men, what reaſon can be aſſigned for the Quakers to give the tenths of the fruits of their labour, and of the produce of their eſtates, to maintain the prieſt? they always refer to the law; to which I anſwer, that a law that takes away mens liberty, property and life without reaſon, is unreaſonable and unjuſtifiable; and every man that acts in and by ſuch law, is guilty of perſecution; and when it is upon a religious foundation, as this is, the ſin is much the greater; for it is robbing the church of Chriſt (which is called ſacrilege) and it is perſecuting the followers of Chriſt, which is blaſphemy againſt heaven, and when committed wilfully and knowingly, is *the unpardonable ſin.*

FINIS.